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(57) Abstract: Isolated splice variant polypeptides from the family of human epididymis-specific receptors called HE6, and related polypeptides from mouse (ME6) and rat (RE6), are described. Also described are isolated polynucleotides encoding the polypeptides, and fragments and variants of the polypeptides and polynucleotides. The polypeptides are involved in maturation of sperm during their passage through the epididymis, and can be used, e.g., to isolate agents for diagnosing and treating male infertility or for male contraception.

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